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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 1998, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1998

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear Father, You alone are the Sovereign of our beloved Nation. In You we place our trust. You are the Source of our blessings, the Author of our liberty, the Guide for our future. Thank You for this sacred Chamber in which the women and men of the Senate seek to know and do Your will. Fill it with Your holy presence and the minds of the Senators with Your wisdom. You have promised in Scripture to heal our land if we humble ourselves, confess our dependence on You, and earnestly seek a renewed relationship with You. We claim this promise in this troubled time in our history. Grant the Senators a special measure of profound inner peace so that they may be peacemakers during times of tension and conflict. We put You and Your righteousness first, above anything, with the assurance that You will give us exactly what we need in each hour.

Father, we thank You that the Senate is a family. As such, we join with Senator KENT CONRAD and his staff in grief over the untimely death of Chief of Staff Kent Hall. Be with Kent's wife, Michelle, and their children, Caiti and Austin, in this time of need. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it is good to see you again, looking in good form. I welcome back all our Members and staff. I hope everyone had a peaceful and restful August recess.

Now we will begin the final stretch of the legislative session of the 105th Congress, as we work to complete action on appropriations bills and a number of other important pieces of legislation.

I think our goal should continue to be to keep our commitment to the budget agreement of last year, stick to the caps we agreed to, preserve the surplus, and see what we can do to return taxes to the people who have worked and earned those taxes.

We have a number of other issues, obviously, that are very important—agriculture issues, education, bankruptcy reform. So we have a lot of work to do—missile defense, the defense of our country. I am very concerned, as I have said in writing to the President and my communications to the Pentagon. I am very worried that we are seeing a deterioration of the morale and the readiness of our military. Of course, there are many foreign policy issues that we will need to address—and all of this in only about 5 weeks or so.

As a part of that, of course, this week we will take up the foreign operations

appropriations bill. We expect to be on that issue Tuesday and Wednesday. We would like to finish it up Wednesday night if at all possible. We will have to count on the Members to work with us in trying to get identification of amendments that will be offered.

I hope Senators will reduce the number of amendments that they are offering on these appropriations bills. In July, it seemed as if every appropriations bill had 100 amendments. It was difficult, on both sides of the aisle, to work through all those amendments. I hope we will have a limited number of amendments and can complete that work.

For today, we will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. Following that, we will turn to the consideration of any legislative or Executive Calendar items that can be cleared for action.

As a reminder to Members, there will be no rollcall votes today, but throughout the August recess I continued to hear from Senators, saying, "How about it, are we really going to work that first week in September?" The answer is absolutely yes. We are going to be working seriously Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will begin by having our first vote at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the military construction appropriations bill. We expect Tuesday afternoon or Tuesday night, perhaps Wednesday morning, to have a vote on the low level waste disposal issue. And we expect votes on amendments with regard

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to the foreign operations appropriations bill. We could have votes on cloture or clotures before the week is over, and we could, of course, have votes if they are called for with regard to Executive Calendar items.

I want to assure Senators, not only will we be having votes; I am going to make sure we have votes, probably more than normal, just to bring the point home clearly that Senator DASCHLE and I have kept our word to Senators this year. We told Senators in January this is when we will be in, having votes, and this is when we will be out. So far we have kept our word to the day on every one of those, both when we would be in and when we would be out.

So this is going to be a busy week. I know it takes a little time to get up and running again after you have been gone for a few days or a few weeks, but it is important that we make progress this week. Of course, next week we will not be in session on Monday because that is Labor Day.

I believe that is all I would have to say at this time, Mr. President. I look forward to meeting with leadership on both sides of the aisle this afternoon or tomorrow, and I will be talking to Senators about the need to be here and debate amendments and to have legislation prepared to be brought up for them. I do want to say that I expect to file a cloture motion on missile defense sometime soon, and I do expect to file a cloture motion, probably on Friday, with regard to bankruptcy reform.

So those are two issues that will at least begin to be considered this week, even though we may not be able to complete them until next week.

I yield the floor. Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KENT HALL

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, my Senate family suffered a tragic loss Friday night. My Chief of Staff, Kent Hall, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. I have lost a dear friend and a trusted adviser. North Dakota has lost a strong and able advocate.

Kent Hall worked for me my entire tenure in the U.S. Senate. I can still remember my job interview with him in 1987. It took place in my makeshift office in the Hart Senate Office Building. I had a jelly doughnut sitting on my desk, and Kent commented to me as we began the interview that if I ate a doughnut every day I would gain 25 pounds in a year.

Along with his terrific sense of humor and his assurance, Kent brought with him a remarkable ability to ana-

lyze events. He was trained as an economist and he was always calm, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Kent Hall drafted the first speech that I ever gave in the U.S. Senate. It was entitled "For North Dakota's Future and America's Future." It was about the policies that would be necessary to stabilize the commodity-driven income of a State like North Dakota.

Although Kent began in my office as my chief agricultural aide, he was later promoted to Legislative Director and then to Chief of Staff. Throughout his twelve years with me, he always gave a thorough and complete analysis to whatever problem was before us.

Kent was interested in issues and he was interested in improving conditions for people. That is what motivated him, that is what drove him. He was especially interested in farm families because he had grown up on a farm in Iowa and he had relatives who were still on the farm, so he had a special understanding of their needs. He had special expertise in agricultural economics.

I can remember very well Kent Hall working all night, during the drought of 1988, to devise a disaster assistance formula that would be most favorable to North Dakota. Kent was a perfectionist, and he was ready to do whatever it took to get things right. He was so committed that he was willing to stay up all night to make sure that what we were doing would get the job done. That was Kent Hall.

I remember him staying weekends and holidays during the flood disasters of last year. In fact, during that entire year I think he took one day off. I remember him working this year as the agricultural crisis spread across our State, working unceasingly to help our farmers.

More than that, though, Kent had a special way about him. He brought a calmness to an office. He brought a calmness to a situation. He had a twinkle in his eye because, as he always liked to remind us, he was an Irishman. So today he would want us to think about the good things and to celebrate his life.

This morning we had a chance, with Reverend Ogilvie, to share with the members of my staff and his widow the life that Kent Hall lived. He lived life fully, he loved life, and, most of all, he loved his family. He leaves behind two young children. He leaves behind a wonderful wife.

Even his marriage was not uneventful. He married Michelle Reilly, who works for Senator HARKIN, in March of 1993. I don't think anybody will forget that day. It was the worst snowstorm in 20 years. It shut down the entire city, but Kent Hall was undeterred. No snowstorm could stop Kent, and that wedding went on. Many friends celebrated it.

Their wedding, in fact, occurred very close to St. Patrick's Day, which was almost like a holy day to Kent Hall. I

still have staff who remember the St. Patrick's Day parties at his home. There was always green beer, and lots of it, and everyone was welcome.

The births of Kent and Reilly's two children, Caiti and Austin, were the highlights of his life. He talked about them all the time. My staff and I always knew when they had said their first word, taken their first step, or even if they just kept Kent awake during the night.

Those of us who knew and loved Kent Hall will miss him terribly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children today and in the days to come.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I join my colleague and friend, Senator CONRAD, in paying tribute to a friend of mine—for over 25 years now, a fellow public servant, a fellow Iowan. It was perhaps one of the saddest phone calls I ever received in my life when I was notified Saturday morning that Kent Hall had died Friday night. He was a young man in the prime of his life. It just was a terrible shock.

There are no words to convey to his family and his many friends the shock and the disbelief and the sadness that I feel about this great loss.

Kent Hall, as I said, was a friend of mine for 25 years. Kent first came to work on my first congressional campaign in 1972. Both of us had been in the military. He had served in Italy. We both felt it was vitally important that we bring the Vietnam war to a swift conclusion. Too many of our friends had lost their lives in Vietnam. We saw the futility of it. So much of our campaign in 1972 was directed at the war. That's why Kent was one of my principal campaign workers that year.

He was a student at Iowa State University then. We did not win that election, but I did fairly well. We stayed at it, and I ran again in 1974. By then, Kent was in graduate school at Iowa State and then became a full-time campaign worker on my 1974 campaign, and we won that election.

He was just a tremendously hard worker. He was very good at getting people involved, especially a lot of the students at Iowa State. Kent even got some of the local high school students involved in the campaign. He inspired them, he got them involved, and he really represented the best of what it means to be in politics. There was never anything underhanded or dirty about Kent. He was just out there knocking on doors, getting the information out, and registering voters.